

Regional Forester Review - Region 6
Emergency Fire Suppression Activities in Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA)
August 29th, 2018

Name of Forest/District: *Willamette NF, McKenzie River RD*

Fire Name/Estimated Size: *Terwilliger Fire, 5,398 acres*

https://ftp.nifc.gov/public/incident_specific_data/pacific_nw/2018_Incidents_Oregon/2018_Terwilliger_OR_WIF_180227/

IRA affected (name and estimated size of IRA):

- French Pete A is 2156 acres;
- McClennan is 7600 acres

Action(s) taken in the IRA (describe emergency operations that occurred - ex: miles of dozer line or hand line constructed; estimated number of hazard trees felled, etc.):

Numbers:

- Total affected acres in French Pete A IRA is about 177 acres and 13 miles long.
- For the purpose of reducing hazards to firefighters along containment and contingency lines approximately 4% of French Pete A IRA may have snags and danger trees felled.
 - o Nearly all of the 177 acres is in natural stands with an estimated age range of 58-448 years old.
- Total affected acres in McClennan IRA is about 74 acres and 6 miles long.
 - o For the purpose of creating a feathered fuel break between Three Sisters Wilderness and McClennan Mountain to better protect values at risk along the Highway 126 corridor. This will include approximately .009% of McClennan IRA and may have snags and danger trees felled to reduce hazards to firefighters.
 - o Nearly all of the 74 acres is in natural stands with an estimated age range of 50-250 years old.

Treatment Specifics:

FRENCH PETE A -

- Thinning of trees and mastication of brush for the first 225 feet on the E side of the 500, 1994 and 19 roads trees retained would be generally be the largest in the stands.
 - o Trees in the area are ~150-225 feet tall, so snags and hazard trees outside of the 225 foot treatment zone, which would threaten fire fighters on the roads would be felled.
 - o In natural stands space trees to an approximately 60-75 feet spacing which would result in an 8-10 TPA residual stand with an estimated residual average diameter of 34". This thinning would be the equivalent of a seed tree cut and provide ample seed for natural regeneration especially considering the narrow swath.
 - An estimated 70-90 TPA would be cut.
- Masticate brush on the W side of the 500 and 19 roads. Brush and trees less than 7" diameter would be treated.

- Merchantable material would be hauled to a centralized decking location, approximately 2 miles away, for future disposal. Decked logs may be used for stream restoration and/or sold.
- Tops and limb material would be ground in a tub grinder.
- Skidding, felling (feller bunchers and hand felling), log loading equipment, and a tub grinder would be used to implement the fuel break.

McCLENNAN (1993 ROAD TREATMENT) –

- Thinning of trees and mastication of brush for the first 225 feet on the N side of the 1993 for approximately 6 miles (from the intersection of the FS Road 1993/551 to .65 miles past the FS Road 1993/582 intersection for approximately .65 miles) and the largest trees in the stand would generally be retained.
- In natural stands space the trees to an approximately 60-75 feet spacing which would result in an 8-10 TPA residual stand with an estimated residual average diameter of 34". This thinning would be the equivalent of a see tree cut and proved ample see for natural regeneration especially considering the narrow swath.
 - o An estimated 70-90 TPA would be cut.
- Masticate brush onto the W side of the FS Road 500 between the road edge and high water mark of Cougar Reservoir. Brush and tress less than 7" diameter would be treated.
- Masticate brush on the N side of the FS Road 1993. Brush and tress less than 7" diameter would be treated.
- Merchantable material would be hauled to a centralized decking location, approximately 6 miles away, for future disposal. Decked logs may be used for stream restoration and/or sold.
- Tops and limb material would be ground in a tub grinder.
- Skidding, felling (felling bunchers and hand felling), log loading equipment, and a tub grinder would be used to implement the treatment along the N side of the FS Road 1993.

What actions were taken to minimize the effects to the IRA?

- Utilize existing roads and road prisms from previous harvest which predate the IRA.
- Flagging the cutting limits within the IRA to better prevent the line getting wider in this area. Resource advisors will monitor progress and compliance.
- Rehab/suppression repair would include improving the 500 road by cleaning all existing culverts and grading the road surface. All temporary decking sites will be covered all with 12-18" of the chips from the tub grinder to reduce erosion.

Briefly describe any other information about the emergency fire suppression activities that might be relevant:

- Provide a safe location off the Scenic Byway, Road 19, for firefighting activities and suppression action to occur.
- Provide a safe alternate escape route should the Scenic Byway Road 19 become obstructed or impassible due to wildfire activity.
- There is high need to begin implementation in the next few days to allow for time for implementation.

- The largest portion of the fire is primarily in the Three Sisters Wilderness at this time.
- Management allocations to west of Road 19 are a mix of Scenic, Adaptive Management and Matrix.
- A portion of Road 19 is closed and an additional closure order is in process to close additional mileage.
- Road 19, the Aufderheide Scenic Byway, is a main throughway from the McKenzie River area to the Oakridge area and its recreation features such as access to Cougar Reservoir, campgrounds, trailheads, hot springs and biking enthusiasts are present along the corridor and are aimed to be protected in the long and short term with this suppression action.
- This suppression action is also aimed to protect shading for listed fish in South Fork McKenzie River that is immediately west of Road 19.